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4 September 1980

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OS REGISTRY
FILE Sec 17
X Sec 18

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :
SA to the DCI for Compartmentation

SUBJECT : APEX - Proposed Letter from DCI to About 125
Corporate Officers

1. This memorandum is to inform you of additional efforts to get industry on board with APEX with minimum disruption, minimum cost, and reasonable cooperation, and to obtain your specific approval of the attached draft letter from you to about 125 key corporate officials. Paragraph 4 contains the specific recommendation.

2. Experience to date with two groups of corporate officials has demonstrated that extensive explanations of APEX are necessary to obtain a reasonably cooperative attitude coupled with adequate understanding of APEX. Sending manuals to corporate security officers and short oral briefings clearly are not enough. The education process requires at least the following steps:

- Effective gaining of corporate attention;
- Distribution of briefing material and allowance of adequate time to study;
- Opportunity for Government officials to explain and reinforce the briefing material and for corporate officials to ask questions and clarify concepts.

3. The corporate officials (mostly Security Officers) who have been involved to date have urged that something be done to get the attention of the key persons in their respective organizations, and we have concluded that the steps in the paragraph above are urgently required. Thus, I propose the attached letter. It would go to about 125 corporations which together receive the bulk of US Government funds spent on SCI contracts. The letters would be individually addressed to Security Officers to be hand delivered to their relevant superiors. These would be sent by the end of the second week of September. In the

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third week of September, the same corporations would receive APEX briefing materials and an invitation to an all-day APEX briefing on 22 October in the CIA auditorium. The specific list of addressees is under review by ASG Working Group No. 2, which is chaired by [redacted]

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4. Thus, I recommend that you approve the attached letter and authorize use of the signature machine for signing approximately 125 such letters. [redacted]

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Attachment

APPROVED:

/s/ Stansfield Turner 11 SEP 1980

Director of Central Intelligence

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SA/DCI/C [redacted] (4 September 1980)

Distribution:

Original - Addressee, return to SA/DCI/C

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

1 - DCI APEX Security Officer

1 - [redacted]

1 - SA/DCI/C File

1 - SA/DCI/C Chrono

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5 September 1980

Dear

I am sending this letter to you for delivery by hand to the appropriate official of your corporation. Please arrange to have it stored and handled in accordance with your company's security arrangements for the safekeeping of sensitive compartmented information.

I want to acquaint you with an improved system for handling and safeguarding sensitive compartmented information and enlist your support and cooperation in implementing the new APEX Special Access Control System. For some months now, government and industry representatives have been working together to formulate plans to implement APEX in industry. Soon, your senior security officers will be given details and instructions concerning a one-day educational seminar for contractor security officers planned for 22 October 1980.

Nothing can be more critical to our country's security than safeguarding information about our intelligence collection systems and their products. It is incumbent on all of us to make every effort to maintain and strengthen the security which protects these activities.

Security systems for the protection of compartmented intelligence programs have evolved separately and without any single, uniform meth-

odology or direction. Individually, the systems may have worked well but they were distinct and uncoordinated with varying and conflicting requirements. The resources required to satisfy the requirements of several different compartmented control systems have become too costly.

Clearly, we have needed a way to better protect our secrets without denying intelligence product access to those who require it. The APEX System is designed to distinguish between sensitive information concerning operation of the collection systems and the intelligence produced by them, and to ensure that the appropriate information is accessible to those who require it. This will be accomplished by uniform standards, rules and procedures to replace today's existing compartmentation systems.

APEX will not replace the old systems overnight. Over the next few years, through a logical and orderly sequence of education, implementation and conversion it will lead to an improved system of controlling our sensitive intelligence. During the initial stages, it will be necessary to retain some features of the former systems while implementing the new one. The conversion to APEX will take resources; however, in the long run, economies should result. I believe that the

decision to establish a single system for the protection of sensitive compartmented information will pay dividends through better security for our intelligence collection programs and improved utilization of the intelligence they produce.

During the past three years, the response from American industry to a compelling need for better security has been outstanding. I am confident that we can continue to work together in this effort to improve the way we use and protect especially sensitive intelligence information.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER